

The Southwark Address

Presented by several Inhabitants of Note,

In the Name of themselves and their Loyal Fellow-Burghers

TO THEIR

BURGESSES,

On Friday March 18.

At their setting forth towards OXFORD.

*To the Right Worshipful Sir RICHARD HOW, Kt. and
PETER RICH, Esq; Burgesses Elected to serve for the
Borough of Southwark in the Parliament to be holden at
Oxford, March 21. 1680.*

GENTLEMEN,

21 March. 1680

OUR two former Elections of you to be our Representatives in Parliament resulted from the large Experience we had before of your Loyalty, Prudence, Fidelity and Fitness in every respect for so great a Trust, which we acknowledg you have hitherto managed so well, that doubtless you had been as unanimously as you have been fairly Chosen again, if some Strangers had not practised upon the credulity of some of our Neighbours.

This Address therefore is not occasioned by the least Apprehension we have of any Necessity of our giving you Directions for the discharge of the Trust which we and the Constitution of the Government have reposed in you. But some few bold men having obtruded upon the World ill things as the unanimous Dictates of whole Counties, Cities and Boroughs, have forced us upon this way of Declaring our minds, lest they should take occasion from our silence to put us in also as Approvers of such things.

I. We being fully convinced of a Damnable Hellish Conspiracy against the Kings Life, the established Religion and Government, think it absolutely necessary, that the compleat Discovery of it be impartially endeavoured; that so the Offenders, whether Papists or other Enemies to our Religion and Government, may be brought to condign Punishment.

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II. We being fully satisfied that the Government of this Kingdom, as it stands Eſtabliſhed by Law, both in Church and State, is the moſt excellent and happy that any People in the World do at this day live under; we conſequently think our ſelves bound in Conſcience to uſe all lawful means for its Support.

III. The Perſons and Reputations of Kings having by all Laws both Divine and Human ever been accounted ſacred, we conceive that the traducing his Maſteſty, and endeavouring to leſſen him in the hearts of his people, is not only unbecoming the Reformed but all Religion, and therefore ought to be diſcountenanced by ſevere Penalties upon Offenders in that kind.

IV. Our Lives, Liberties and Eſtates having ever ſince his Maſteſties happy Reſtauration been by him, under God, inviolably preſerv'd to us, and that always (but of late more eſpecially) at his Maſteſties vaſt charge and expence both at home and abroad, we think it highly reaſonable, that, as we have formerly done, ſo we ſhould ſtill (in a Parliamentary way) help to defray the Charge, as well as enjoy the Benefit of His Maſteſties gracious Government and Protection.

Gentlemen,

IT is not for want of any Reſpect to your Perſons or Character, that we decline attending you in as great Numbers as any *Life-and-fortune-men* of 'um all, but meerly becauſe as Loyal Subjects we are careful to avoid any thing that has the leaſt appearance of Tumult; ſo that we have nothing further to add, but to wiſh you a good Journey, and pray God to proſper you in all your Debates and Conſultations tending to the Kings Honour and Safety, the preſervation of the Proteſtant Religion, and the welfare of the Kingdom.

Which being Received and Read by the Burgeſſes, they replied to this effect.

Gentlemen,

YOU have ſpoken our ſenſe in every particular, and we hope we ſhall ſo demean our ſelves as to ſatiſfie all unbiaſd men, that our Principles are truly Loyal, that we are ſincere Proteſtants, and hearty Lovers of our Country.